first time in the Budget for 2006-07 only. The estimated receipts in PSK for 2006-07 are Rs. 8746 crore, out of which Rs. 5831 crore .are allocated to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rs. 2915 crore to Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM). Allocations to States are not being made separately against the Cess. Assistance to them is released under individual schemes related to Elementary Education in accordance with the guidelines of such schemes and against their respective budgetary allocations.

Guidelines for disbursement of Educational Loans

4007. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) whether there are guidelines issued by the Ministry for disbursement of educational loans for study, in India and abroad; and

(b) what are the securities demanded by the banks for sanctioning educational loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Indian Banks' Association has formulated guidelines for Education Loan in consultation with the Government.

(b) As per the Scheme, no security or margin is required for loan upto Rs. 4 lakh. For loans of above Rs. 4 lakh and upto Rs. 7.5 lakh, a suitable third party guarantee is required to be provided and for loans above Rs. 7.5 lakhs, collateral security of suitable value or co-obligation of parents/guardian/third party along with the assignment of future income of the student for payment of installments is required.

Educational Loans for Students

4008. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) how much amount has totally been disbursed as educational loans for students who have opted to pursue courses of study abroad in the last academic year; and

(b) what are the courses of study for which loans were availed by students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it does not capture information regarding disbursement of education loan for pursuing studies abroad and for courses of study separately. However, total outstanding education loan by Public Sector Banks as on September 2005 was Rs. 830133 lakh in 580262 accounts.

Trade Deficit

4009. SHRl RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trade deficit has widened and causing concern when compared to the previous two years;

(b) if so, the details of trade deficit in comparative figures;

(c) whether Government are taking stock of our oil need and ramp up FDI instead of depending on Flls;

(d) if so, the efforts made in this direction;

(e) whether Government are taking efforts that exports remain at about 15 per cent of GDP; and

(f) if so, the present status in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data (customs basis) trade deficit figures for the last three years were as follows:

Year	Trade deficit (US$ millions)
2003-04	14,307
2004-05	25,958
2005-06	39,631

Though trade deficit has increased, inflows on account of invisibles continue to be high. As a result the current account deficit is within reasonable limits. While the rise in international prices of crude oil has led to higher import bill, imports of capital goods and inputs needed to